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Patios to open Friday

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Outdoor dining will be permitted under Ontario's COVID-19 economic recovery framework beginning Friday, June 11, and that's welcome news to local restaurateurs who are preparing to re-open their patios.

"Our thoughts can be summed up in a single word ... finally," Shawn Chamberlin of Minden's Dominion Hotel told the *Times*. Restaurants have been closed to all forms of eat-in dining since early April amid the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, and have been permitted to offer only take-out and delivery.

Chamberlin said he and the Dominion staff are thrilled to welcome friends and families back to the patio.

"We have missed the one on one contact with our customers, many of whom we have not seen for a year or more," he said. "We are so excited for the opportunity to be able to welcome outdoor diners. We appreciate how so many have supported us in getting take-out food. This has really made a difference. Thank you! Take-out will continue to be offered."

Under provincial guidelines, seating must be outdoors and limited to four people per table, with exceptions for larger families. Face masks are still mandatory except when

see RETAILERS page 2



The Chamberlin family prepares a new space at the Dominion Hotel – The Dominion Boathouse – to welcome guests as outdoor dining in Ontario is set to resume on Friday, June 11. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

SIU investigation into shooting continues

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Nearly 11 months after a Haliburton County man died following an altercation with police, an Ontario Special Investigations Unit investigation into the incident continues.

On the morning of July 15, 2020, a man went to enter the Minden Valu-Mart and when it was requested he wear a face mask to enter, assaulted an employee before using his

vehicle to ram vehicles in the store's parking lot, and speeding away. Police used the licence plate on his vehicle to track him to his residence near Drag Lake. At the residence, there was an interaction between members of the OPP and the man, which resulted in two officers discharging their firearms. The man was subsequently taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead, and his identity was later revealed as Leslie John Hegedus, 73.

The Ontario Special Investigations Unit is a civilian oversight body that investigates cases of serious injury, death or allegations

of assault involving police officers. As part of the SIU investigation, the two subject officers, as well as four witness officers and civilian witnesses were interviewed.

The SIU has received reports from the Centre of Forensic Sciences, as well as the results of a post-mortem examination. According to communications coordinator Monica Hudon, the file is now with the organization's director for review. Hudon told the *Times* it's difficult to know when the results of the investigation will be made public.

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Retailers may open with limited capacity

from page 1

seated and sanitization protocols will still be required.

A new addition at the back of the building, The Dominion Boathouse, will offer plenty of space for seating, as well as a view of the Gull River.

Chamberlin urged patience, as many suppliers are just getting back to business as well, and noted the restaurant is looking for help.

"Many of our suppliers may not be up to speed for some time," he said. "They are having the same staffing challenges that we are. If you've ever thought of applying for a job, now is the time. We are in need of fun, friendly folks to join our team."

In Carnarvon, the patio at Rhubarb restaurant will open Friday.

"Our patio will be open five days a week, from noon until late," co-owner Terri Mathews-Carl told the paper. Rhubarb will be open Wednesday through Sunday, closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. A new store out of the Rhubarb location offers wine, beer and cocktails to go, as well as gourmet items, frozen foods, meals to go and baked goods. "A lot of things you can't get up here, we'll have," Mathews-Carl said.

Boshkung Brewing Co. will also open patios at Boshkung Social on Minden's Water Street and a new patio, called Boshkung Lakeside, overlooking Mirror Lake at the original brewery location at Rhubarb.

A number of retailers throughout the county will also re-open to walk-in customers on Friday, with non-essential retail outlets being able to operate at up to 15 per cent capacity, and essential retailers up to 25 per cent.

As of Sunday, June 6, 72 per cent of Ontarian adults had received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the province's number of new confirmed cases on Monday was 525, the lowest daily count since Sept. 27. The new confirmed case count in Haliburton County on Monday was two.

"Thanks to the ongoing success of Team

“

Our thoughts can be summed up in a single word ... finally.

— SHAWN CHAMBERLIN

”

Ontario's vaccine rollout and the ongoing improvements in public health trends, we are able to enter step one of the roadmap and begin to safely and cautiously lift restrictions," Premier Doug Ford said in a release on Monday. "The only reason we're able to do so is because of the enormous sacrifices made by individuals, families and communities across Ontario. As we begin to enjoy the benefits of the first step in our roadmap like meeting friends on a patio or visiting your favourite local store, please do so safely by continuing to follow all public health guidelines."

Previously, the government had anticipated entering the first phase of a three-phased re-opening plan on June 14, pending case counts and at least 60 per cent of Ontarians having received a first vaccine dose.

The changes, which will come into effect at 12:01 a.m. on June 11, mean that limits for outdoors social gathering and organized events will increase to 10 people. Outdoor dining with up to four people per table, with exceptions for larger families, will be permitted. Outdoor attractions such as zoos, historic sites and gardens can open with COVID-19 safety restrictions in place, and outdoor fitness classes and sports training may resume, with a maximum of 10 people.

Day camps can open with safety protocols in place, and overnight camping can resume at Ontario campgrounds and parks.

Hall of fame reveals first inductees

by DARREN LUM

Times Staff

After three years of work, much of it by its chairman Scotty LaRue, the Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame has officially named its first group of inductees, who represent athletes for their achievements on the ice, field, court, and track; builders for their dedication to athletics and the community, and the athletic teams that excelled and earned respect in the area and outside of it for how they not only competed, but for how they represented and united the community.

LaRue made the induction announcement official, listing 17 inductees on Monday, June 7.

"This is a group of people and teams that truly reflect the depth and the breadth of athletics in the Highlands," LaRue said. "We have 11 athletes, three builders and three teams whose excellence and commitment deserves to be celebrated and that is exactly what we are doing today. These individuals have contributed so much to their sports and to their communities and we want to ensure these contributions are never forgotten. They are a very important part of the fabric of our communities and we are proud to be able to celebrate their many accomplishments."

The athletes listed in alphabetical order are retired CFLer Mike Bradley, hockey standout Glen Dart (deceased), who was considered to be the best hockey player from the area during the 1930s, contributing to winning clubs; retired NHLer Cody Hodgson; Don Beverly "Joe" Iles (deceased), a multi-sport athlete and star defenceman during the 1940s and 1950s; touted as the Highlands' best all-around female athlete Marla MacNaull, a two-time HHSS athlete of the year and champion in different disciplines such as cross-country running, hockey, baseball, track, floor hockey, field hockey, volleyball, basketball, curling, badminton, and road racing; retired NHLer Bernie Nicholls; retired NHLer Ron Stackhouse; Haliburton's only Olympian Lesley Tashlin; HHSS' only three

time athlete of the year Anna Tomlinson, who was a Ontario University Association finalist for York University in the seven-event heptathlon; accomplished competitive curler, Jake Walker, who won bronze at the World Junior Championships in 2010, and Haliburton's first pro football player, Taly Williams.

The builders include Linda J. Brandon, who founded the Haliburton County Red Wolves and brought Special Olympics to the Highlands; community leader and hockey booster Albert John (Ab) LaRue, who was a key figure behind bringing an artificial ice rink to Haliburton through fundraising and building while serving on the Dysart Community Centre Board; and a dedicated community youth coach for baseball and hockey Lenny Salvatori, who was also an athlete that excelled in a variety of sports, and was a long-time volunteer in different capacities, such as 30 years as the Haliburton OMHA representative.

The teams being inducted are the 1934 Haliburton Huskies, who won six championships; the 1956 to 1958 Minden Monarchs, a dominant team in Haliburton County in the 1950s, winning three straight league championships and three straight Eastern Ontario championships, and the 1971 Haliburton Huskies, who won the Ontario Hockey Association Junior D Championship and the Central Ontario League Playoff Junior D Championship, including the OHA Cup, the Central Ontario Junior D League Championship and the Eastern Ontario Junior D Championship.

The Sports Hall of Fame, which is comprised of volunteers, is a member of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative Inc. (The Co-op).

The new Hall of Fame will be located on the upper level of the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton.

This year the official induction ceremonies are scheduled for Oct. 23 at a banquet at the Pinestone Inn and Conference Centre.

See profiles about each of the inductees in upcoming issues of the *Echo* and *Times*.

An open letter to Indigenous People

Our hearts are going out to Indigenous People and Communities across the country and here in Haliburton County. The discovery of 215 unmarked graves of children of Tkemlúps te Secwépemc is a clear reminder about the abuse, neglect, trauma and loss of lives that resulted from residential schools. We recognize that the impacts of residential schools and other acts of oppression and racism, impact generations and sadly are still in existence.

As service providers in our community, we are joining with Indigenous leaders to call for the immediate implementation of **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action**.

As organizations we are committed to ongoing learning and education, self-examination and working in partnership with Indigenous organizations to continue to address inequities and advocate for changes recommended by Indigenous leaders. The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is available 24-hours a day for anyone experiencing pain or distress as a result of his or her Residential school experience. **If you need support, please call 1-866-925-4419.**



Kinmount Fair cancels 2021 event

by SUE TIFFIN

Times Staff

For the second year in a row, the 150th Kinmount Fair has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement of the decision was made through a post on the Kinmount Fair's social media page on June 4.

"Due to the ongoing public health restrictions and the resulting challenges in planning for a Kinmount Fair we can all enjoy safely, the Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 Kinmount Fair," reads the post. "We want to ensure we are able to host a fair like the ones we have all known and loved while maintaining the safety of all fair patrons. We will be starting plans for the 150th Kinmount fair to be held in 2022."

The three-day fair typically includes agriculture and equestrian shows, live entertainment, a midway, demolition derby and historical exhibitions and is attended by thousands of people, many who travel to the area

to attend. This year's event was scheduled to take place Sept. 3, 4 and 5.

In May 2020, the event was cancelled at the same time as numerous other fairs throughout the province during the first summer of the pandemic. At that time the announcement noted the challenges of public health restrictions in place for organizers to make preparations for the event, as well as social distancing "for an event the size of the fair."

In its long history, the Kinmount Fair has faced setbacks before – during the Great Depression in the 1930s, the fair remained active but finding prize money was challenging and one year the secretary was gifted with a quilt instead of a cash honorarium, according to a 2009 issue of the Kinmount Gazette.

"See you in 2022," reads this year's post.

For those in need of more information, email info@kinmountfair.net or for trailer park inquiries please email trailerpark@kinmountfair.net.

The 2022 Kinmount Fair is scheduled to take place Sept. 2, 3 and 4 next year.

Report highlights need for shoreline education

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

A report from Watersheds Canada highlights a perceived lack of shoreland stewardship education among waterfront property owners as one of the major barriers to achieving sustainably healthy shorelines.

That report, entitled *The Future of Our Shores*, was released in May and draws its conclusions based on a series of stakeholder surveys. Those stakeholder groups are divided into three categories – lake and river associations, municipal officials, and municipal planners – and the bulk of responses to the voluntary surveys came from southeastern Ontario, including Haliburton County and the District of Muskoka.

A total of 123 representatives from 50 lake and river associations responded to the survey, including reps from a number of lake associations in the county. Those results showed the biggest perceived challenge to shoreline health to be unsustainable attitudes and practices – largely on the part of waterfront property owners themselves, but also on the part of municipal officials – spurred by a lack of education, understanding or awareness.

There was also indication that some waterfront property owners perceive municipal shoreline regulations as infringement of their rights.

“Lake and river associations consistently cite a perceived infringement upon the rights of private property owners during promotion and implementation of stewardship activities, especially when the values and attitudes of these property owners conflict with those of environmental groups,” the report reads.

“Many respondents shared the belief that property owners were ‘going to do what they were going to do’ regardless of the ramifications on the biological and physical well-being of their lake or river, and that any attempt to mitigate these attitudes and practices was perceived as an alienation of the rights. Ultimately, this is an issue of education, values, and attitudes which could be resolved with open dialogue to find collaborative solutions.”

A total of 44 municipal officials, including councillors, mayors and reeves, responded to the survey, including officials from the county. Municipal officials cited the No. 1 barrier to sustainable shorelines being a lack of financial resources to implement bylaws and programs. They also pointed to competing interests – balancing environmental stewardship with development – as a major hurdle.

“Based on these responses, it would seem that situations in which development pressure has predominated over environmental concern are viewed in a rather negative light by municipal officials, suggesting that these officials wish to avoid situations wherein development occurs at the expense of conservation,” the report reads. “This might imply a greater environmental mindedness among municipal officials that previously implied by the results of the lake and river association surveys.”

“It would seem there is a general desire on the part of municipal officials to implement enhanced and/or sustainable shoreline practices which reflect their own conservation values and that of their constituents,” it continues. “However, implementation is often stymied by competing interests and lobbying from those who do not support sustainable approaches and have financial clout.”

Elected officials also indicated stronger

shoreline policies from the provincial government would be helpful.

Twenty-three municipal planners responded to the survey, with representation from the County of Haliburton and the Township of Minden Hills. Like municipal officials, planners referred to a lack of financial resources in order to implement shoreline preservation policies, as well as a lack of strong policy from the province.

“Similar to municipal officials, planners cited the need for more comprehensive and effective policies from the provincial level of government, which, they believe, will allow for a more effective mediation between competing interests at the local level,” the report reads. “Additionally, in a fashion very similar to lake and river associations, planners consistently mentioned the need to address the attitudes, practices, and low levels of shoreland

education on the part of waterfront property owners and developers.”

The report concludes that lack of education and associated attitudes need to be addressed to facilitate improved shoreline stewardship.

“Each of the three stakeholder groups had different perspectives about the barriers that limited shoreline sustainability in their region, but they also showed agreement on several topics, namely that a lack of shoreline stewardship education (and subsequent unsustainable attitudes) existed among waterfront property owners and developers. Indeed, the results of these surveys seem to suggest quite forcefully that values and education related to shoreland stewardship were both significant and limiting factors in achieving the lake or river-related goals of their association or municipality.”

The full report is available at <https://watersheds.ca/planning-for-our-shorelands/>

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference meetings, until further notice.
Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

June 10 – Regular Council Meeting
June 24 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Campfire Safety Tips

All it takes is one spark for things to go wrong. A carelessly abandoned campfire or a campfire built without safe clearance can turn a small fire into a dangerous and fast-moving blaze. Be sure to build your campfire in a way that does not endanger anyone or the surrounding forest. Enjoy a safe campfire by following these campfire or open air burning safety tips:

- Check the fire status information line at 249-802-3535 for open-air burning and fire status restrictions and follow local burning regulations. Keep up-to-date on fire bans in the area.
- Never build a campfire on a windy day. Sparks or embers from the fire could travel quite a distance setting an unintentional fire.
- Watch the wind direction to ensure sparks aren't getting on flammable materials. Put the fire out if wind changes begin to cause concern.
- Build campfires where they will not spread; well away from tents, trailers, dry grass, leaves, overhanging tree branches or any other combustible material.
- Maintain a 2 to 3.5 metre (6 – 10 foot) clearance around your campfire.
- Keep campfires to a small, manageable size no more than 2 metre (6 feet) high by 2 metre (6 feet) in diameter and don't let it get out of hand.
- Don't burn garbage in your campfire. The smell is unpleasant for you and your neighbours, and may attract animals to your campsite.
- Teach children how to STOP, DROP and ROLL should their clothing catch on fire. Teach children to cool a burn with cool running water for 3 – 5 minutes.
- As little as 1 second contact with a 70°C (158°F) campfire can cause 3rd degree, full thickness burns.
- Never leave campfires unattended. Ensure that a responsible adult is monitoring the campfire at all times. Supervise children around campfires at all times and never allow horseplay near or involving the campfire, such as jumping over a campfire. Do not allow children to run around near a campfire.

Remember to get your **burn or fireworks permit**. There is no open air daytime burning during April 1st to October 31st a permit is required during these times. You can get these permits at the fire hall or the web sites: www.mindenhillsfire.ca or www.mindenhills.ca

WEEKDAY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Are you retired? Work weekends? Have some time off? Join us **Friday June 25th** at the **Minden Fairgrounds** between 9am – 3pm for a weekday household hazardous waste event. Materials must be in labelled, non-leaking containers and must be from a household. Please bring your landfill ID card and remain in your vehicle at all times. Staff will unload your materials for you.

DAYTIME BURNING & FIREWORKS REMINDER

Reminder that you will need a burn permit for daytime burning and a fireworks permit for the ignition of fireworks from April 1st to October 31st.

ALTERNATE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

A household hazardous waste event will be hosted at the Scotch Line Landfill on Saturday, June 26th from 8am – 11:30am. Materials must be in labelled, non-leaking containers and must be from a household. Please bring your landfill ID card and remain in your vehicle at all times. Staff will unload your materials for you.

Minden Equipment Rental under new ownership

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Minden Equipment Rental, previously known as Minden Hills Rent-All, is under new ownership and management and ready to welcome customers both old and new.

Bill Burnett and Brady van Tol are now at the helm of the recently rebranded business, which just received a facelift and an update on some of its rental equipment.

“We have new management and we’re here to be the customers’ link between them and equipment providers,” Burnett says. Burnett has worked for the business for eight years, with van Tol working the same amount of time as a small engine technician near Milton.

The business not only rents out all kinds of tools, machines, and lawn and yard equipment, but sells it and repairs it as well.

“We have curbside service for those who request it,” van Tol says. “We welcome everyone.”

The business carries STIHL and Cub Cadet products, along with others.

Minden Equipment Rental also provides propane sales, and Highlands Party Rental, providing supplies for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and other functions, will continue to operate from the site as well.

For more information, visit <https://www.mindenequipment.ca/> or call 705-286-6000.



Brady van Tol, left, and Bill Burnett are ready to welcome new and returning customers at Minden Equipment Rental. / CHAD INGRAM Staff

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Need for services at local YWCA increases 20 per cent during pandemic

by **MIKE BAKER**
Times Staff

The YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County has a rather unique goal – to put itself out of business.

However, according to Darlene Smith-Harrison, transition support and women's centre manager, the organization is further away from that objective than it has, perhaps, ever been.

Since 1986, the YWCA has served as a beacon of hope for women and children across the Highlands, offering a wide-range of supports and programs to victims of abuse and violence. Operating under the YWCA Peterborough Haliburton umbrella, the women's centre specializes in three areas – transition support, clinical therapy and family law information and support.

While there has always been a need for service in Haliburton County, that demand has intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Through our transition support program we have seen an increase of 20 per cent in the number of women requiring our services since March of last year," Smith-Harrison said. "That is a huge increase. Certainly higher than anything we've seen before year over year."

The YWCA offers free, confidential support to women who are concerned about the health of their relationship or are planning to leave an abusive situation. Supports are provided by phone or in-person, with flexible meeting arrangements in safe locations

throughout Haliburton County. Staff also provide safety assessments, court support for criminal and family court matters, transportation to and from appointments, emergency transportation, housing information and details to help individuals better understand the effects of violence and trauma, both on women and children.

While there is considerable concern over the increase in local numbers over the past 15 months, Smith-Harrison said they actually fall under the national average over the same time period.

"Women's organizations across Canada have seen a 30 per cent increase in the need for safety and supports since the pandemic began," Smith-Harrison said. "It's an alarming increase, especially so considering the severity of cases we respond to are increasing also..."

"COVID-19 has increased the barriers for women when attempting to escape violent situations, especially in rural areas. Reaching out to supports has become more challenging when these women are trapped alongside the controlling or abusive person day and night due to lockdown, so the considerable increase is that much more concerning," she added.

The increased demand has put a strain on the local women's shelter, who only gets a percentage of their costs covered through the government. The YWCA has to fundraise for approximately 35 per cent of their budget each and every year.

With that in mind the organization has launched a new month-long fundraiser

throughout June titled 'Will You Help Make Sure They have a Safe Way Out?' They hope that, with the help of the community, they will be able to raise \$10,000 to cover costs associating with running their transition support programs.

Money will also be used to maintain the Haliburton Emergency Rural Safespace [HERS]. HERS provides a unique safe space within Haliburton County so that women and their children can move away from the abusive situation in their home, without leaving their support systems, jobs, schools, families and friends behind.

The organization has two independent living units in the county.

"HERS is a truly unique program in the sense that it gives women time to readjust and consider and contemplate their next steps without fleeing from their community," Smith-Harrison said. "It's a temporary solution rather than a permanent fix, but it's all about providing a safe space to those who desperately need it."

Statistics from the YWCA's 2019/20 fiscal year show that the occupancy rate of the two units was 94.6 per cent, with the average length of stay sitting at 68.5 days.

Smith-Harrison said there have been many success stories, with women often transitioning into permanent living situations away from their abusive partners.

Even after a successful transition, Smith-Harrison encourages women to make use of the YWCA's programming as they adapt to a new life.

"Most women do still use our services, and

we do encourage that. It's a whole other new transition going out on their own. It may be the first time ever that they've lived alone, so need supports that way, maybe the family court system is moving slowly and they need help there – there's still so much help and assistance we can provide individuals once they've moved on from HERS," Smith-Harrison said.

When discussing the types of abuse she sees, Smith-Harrison said it's all encompassing.

"Abuse can be verbal, physical, mental, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual in nature. Abuse can come in many forms and many behaviours – whether it be forced manipulation, controlling tendencies, physical attacks..." she said.

If you are concerned that someone you know may be a victim of domestic abuse, Smith-Harrison said to always call 911 if you suspect someone may be in immediate danger. Aside from that, if trying to help, she advises to "gently and privately" let the individual know you're concerned and ask how you can help.

"Help her get in touch with agencies such as ours that can help. Be very patient. It's important that we support women where they're at in their process. Don't be pushy. Let her know you're there for her if and when she needs it," Smith-Harrison noted.

For more information on the YWCA Women's Centre of Haliburton County and its programs, visit ywcapeterborough.org/programs-services/ywca-womens-centre-of-haliburton-county.

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Bump

LIKE SOME other Haliburton County residents, I planted my vegetable garden this past weekend.

Admittedly it was in violation of my own rule of thumb, which is to not put vegetables in the ground until after “the new moon in June,” to avoid any issues with frost. However, the new moon comes late this year, on June 10, and with the very summery temperatures we’ve been experiencing, it felt safe to go ahead with planting.

The new moon in June advice came from my grandfather, who was a farmer. His name was William but he was Bill to his friends and family. Except his grandchildren. As a small child, my eldest cousin had been unable to pronounce the word “Grandpa,” and what came out instead was “Bumpa.” That was eventually shortened to just Bump.

Born in the 1920s, Bump was a true product of his era, growing up through the Great Depression, dropping out of elementary school in order to work. He worked on farms virtually his entire life. I remember him almost always in brown work clothes, boots and red suspenders, with a 50s-era brush cut and glasses to match. He smelled almost perpetually of dirt, or grease from his machinery.

My grandparents’ farm was just a few doors up the street from my parents’ house. It was a traditional small family farm – about 100 acres of fields growing corn and soy beans, a barn housing cows

and pigs, a chicken coop, and some machine sheds.

Then there were the gardens. Bump kept a massive vegetable garden that to a kid seemed about as big a football field. Different varieties of beans and peas, lettuce, beets, carrots, cucumbers, potatoes, onions. On and on. Row after row. A second garden, slightly less massive but still huge, was for growing pumpkins and gourds.

Bump was almost always found outside, and in the summer if he

wasn’t in the fields, he was working in the garden. As a boy, I’d enter the corn field through a gate at the back of my parents’ property, emerging at the garden to find Bump planting, weeding or watering. If he got hungry, he’d pick a snack. On

occasion, Bump would pull an onion out of the ground, wipe the dirt away on his shirt, and eat it like an apple. As the summer went on, I’d help him pick vegetables, many of which my grandmother would turn into preserves.

Bump is long gone, my grandmother now too. So is their farm, the barn and outbuildings, and the gardens.

My garden is nothing like my grandfather’s. It’s a small, 100-square-foot raised box filled with triple mix in the corner of our backyard. But in a ritual that has become almost spiritual, every spring as I plant the garden I’m transported back to my childhood, to a farm that now only exists in my mind’s eye.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor



Just ducky

KAREN LONDON Staff

Trailer talk

ON SUNDAY I transported a tin boat that my buddy had brought to his home about an hour an 15 minutes away. And not just for fun either.

You see my buddy is one of those people you sometimes hear about who is living the best life he can with a severe and debilitating affliction. He does not have a boat trailer.

And, although this is extremely rare in rural Ontario, there are millions of people just like him. And, let me tell you, it breaks your heart.

The good news is we can talk about it now and by doing so remove the stigma.

For these are men and women, just like you and me, who have never had the experiences we all take for granted. Greasing bearings, trying to figure out why hitting the brake pedal makes the trailer lights give a left turn signal, hopping on one foot after smacking a shin on a trailer hitch, my buddy has not done any of these things. But, you know, I’ve never heard him complain once.

That’s because he is a fighter and has decided that not having a trailer is not going to stop him from having a boat. He knows that where there is a will, there is a way. As my drive on Sunday proved.

All this is to say, he refuses to let this define him. Despite my best efforts.

In fact, if you talk to him for a while, you will soon forget that he is dealing with this challenge at all. Outwardly he appears just like you and me. Except that he has to cartop his boat.

I know. I know. But, he doesn’t want your pity.

Yesterday, he called me to say he

dragged that tin boat for 100 yards down to the river at the end of his property, and I’ll admit my eyes welled up a bit. Yet I choked back those tears and just said, “Good for you pal. Good for you.”

One day, I imagine, we will live to see the day when by some miracle my buddy, and others like him get boat trailers of their own.

But right now, we need to address the issue.

If you have a heart, you are probably asking yourself, “what can I do?”

Well, first, don’t just assume, everyone you know who likes to fish and hunt has a boat trailer. Some people do not.

And, when you find out they lack a trailer, don’t just bend over backwards offering to help. Wait until they ask. Then another two weeks after that. That way, you’re not treating them any different than the rest of your friends.

Oh, and when they come to you with hat in hand, don’t make them beg – much.

After all, for just half a tank of gas and three hours of your time, you can alleviate their suffering and show that you are there for them. And, later, remind them of it frequently.

Remember, these are people who, through no fault of their own, decided to buy a boat without thinking, even once, that they might need a trailer. And pointing that out to them, every time they call, is not really all that helpful – to them.

Instead, just recognize that and understand this is the hand they’ve been dealt.

And know that, in the end, all they really want you to do is pull for them.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Racism that degrades us all

THE SORROWFUL story of Canadian residential schools, established to wipe away Indigenous languages and culture, is back in the headlines. What returned it to the forefront is the discovery of unmarked graves at a former Kamloops residential school for Indigenous children. It is believed the graves contain the remains of 215 children, presumed to have been undocumented deaths at the school.

The Canadian government along with several Christian churches operated 139 residential schools between 1831 and 1996. The schools were designed to turn the children into “normal” Canadians by stripping them of their “Indianness.”



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

An estimated 6,000 children died at the schools from disease, accidents, neglect and abuse but there are no complete official records, so an accurate figure is unknown. Most of the dead children were buried on school grounds, often in unmarked graves.

There are few revelations in the latest residential school news, except that ground-penetrating radar found many more bodies than expected. That technology likely will find other remains at other residential schools with unmarked graves.

The Kamloops discovery has reopened wounds from the residential school system and debate about who was wrong, who has and hasn't apologized and why there has not been enough action taken on promises of reconciliation.

That is unfortunate because much of the debate is focussed on the past and is draining time and energy from the most important action that needs to be taken now.

Almost everything there is to know about what happened in residential schools is known. It has been the subject of piles of studies, books, news stories and major commission reports such as the Truth and Reconciliation Report (2015) the 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

It's all history, and while history is critically important and should not be forgotten, it is time to focus on the present and what we do not know: How many unmarked graves are there, how many children are buried in those graves, who are they, and what is the plan for giving their remains proper burial in proper cemeteries with proper markers?

A variety of political figures, government agencies, churches and religious orders have been blamed for the residential schools' nightmare. However, all Canadians, even those not born in the residential school era, must share the blame, shame and the responsibility for doing what needs to be done now.

We all must because residential schools were a shameful act of racism committed by our country. And, this racism still exists in Canada today with not enough effort to eliminate it.

It's racism that dozens of Indigenous communities are without clean drinking water despite years of government promises to clean up polluted water.

It's racism that we have done next to nothing to act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action. The Commission called the residential school system “cultural genocide” but only 10 of its 94 calls to action have been completed in the last six years.

Four years ago, on National Aboriginal Day, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said:

“No relationship is more important to Canada than the relationship with Indigenous Peoples.”

If he really believes that he should personally lead urgent actions to restore the dignity taken from our Indigenous brothers and sisters by the residential school system. Action now, not limping action dragging over the next five, 10, 15 years.

It is urgent that the bones of those children who died in residential schools be placed in well-maintained cemeteries where people can see who they were and understand the shame of what happened to them.

Those cemeteries and the children they hold will remind us that this kind of shameful abuse against our own people can never be tolerated again. They will remind all that Canada is a racist country but that we are working to change that.

They also will be a reminder that the world is populated now by only one species of human being, not the many different forms of humans that existed thousands of years ago. One species with different cultures, different languages, different religious beliefs and different skin colours.

But one species of human beings, basically the same and all deserving equality and each other's respect.

letters to the editor

Thanks to landfill staff

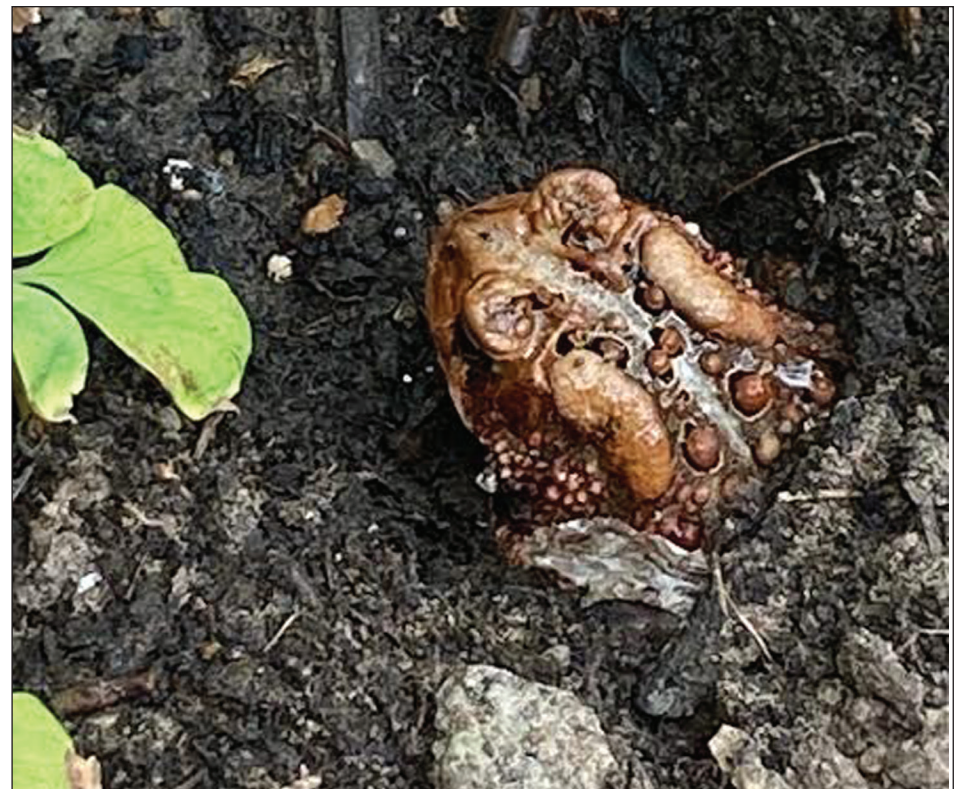
To the Editor,

While visiting the Scotch Line landfill, have you ever wondered what it is like to work there? This past Monday, I once again had the opportunity to reconsider that very question. The recent lack of rain coupled with high temperatures resulted in a work environment many residents don't experience. Even the smallest vehicles making their way around the inside loop raised a cloud of very fine dust. Add to that the aroma of a large quantity of decomposing materials under the intense sunshine and you start to get the picture. Staying any longer than the few minutes needed to drop a bag or two of household garbage into the bin left residents sweat-soaked and dust-covered.

Working there for even an hour would make one want to drive directly to Rotary Park for a

quick jump in the good old Gull River. So, how were the folks employed to keep everything running properly handling their working conditions? Did the heat, dust and smell affect their interaction with the public? Not in the least! The human atmosphere was very friendly as evidenced by the smiles and good-natured humour. On that day my trips were made enjoyable due to the assistance enthusiastically provided by all staff who helped to make sure that items I brought along found their way to the correct locations. Thanks again to Sam, Danny and Kevin for reminding us that a smile, a few friendly words and a helpful hand make all the difference in any situation.

John Gibb
Minden



Guenter Horst discovered this amphibious friend taking a mud bath.

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Encouraged by her dad to go out and enjoy nature, Aster meets a mysterious old woman with a herd of dogs who gives her a canine companion of her very own. When she and her new dog, Buzz, are adventuring in the forest, they run into a trickster spirit who also gives Aster three wishes! After wishing for the ability to understand and talk to Buzz, Aster becomes only able to speak the language of dogs ...and that's only the beginning!

Maybe the middle of nowhere might be more interesting than Aster thought.

Girl Gang T-shirt sales benefit Minden Community Food Centre

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

Children are benefiting from a \$1,000 donation made a few weeks ago by Kay Rae Real Estate to the Minden Community Food Centre.

The money was made from the sale of T-shirts with 'Support Your Local Girl Gang' in white lettering on the front. They are made by CoHo Apparel, which was part of a marketing campaign to promote the local realty team of Kirsten Rae and Kelly Kay established early in the year.

The Food Centre's manager Joanne Barnes appreciated the gift.

"Minden Food Centre is so grateful to the Realtors for their recent donation. Funds are directed to children at home as we provide healthy foods for breakfast and lunches since they have not been in school for breakfast and snack programs. We will be providing fresh fruits and vegetables using these funds," she wrote in an email.

This donation by the realtors followed the \$1,000 donation made earlier in the year, to the Haliburton Four Cs Food Bank.

The two Haliburton County-based realtors are lifelong friends, who graduated from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in 2006.

They are both mothers with kids registered in area schools that wanted to help as many people as they could during the pandemic. Their volunteer experiences working with children was the backbone of the charitable component to selling the T-shirts. Rae and Kay have volunteered for Food for Kids at their children's respective primary schools in

Minden and Haliburton in the past.

The Support Your Local Girl Gang statement, Rae said, references their local business partnership and their gender.

"And with Kelly and I starting this venture, we just thought, 'Hey, this is great. We're one of the only female real estate teams in the area so 'Support Your Local Girl Gang,' she said.

Rae said the \$2,000 donated to the food banks of Minden and Haliburton is a credit to the Highlands community.

"We are just so grateful for the community's support. Being able to donate a total of \$2,000 to our local food banks during these tough times has been such a humbling experience, and watching the community come together to support the cause has been nothing short of amazing! We came up with the idea and put it into action, but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of our town!" she wrote in a message.

Currently, the team has not selected another recipient, but encourage the public to keep up-to-date with future endeavours through the realty team's Kay Rae Real Estate Facebook page @kayraealestate

With files from the Echo.



Minden Community Food Centre manager Joanne Barnes said she appreciated receiving the \$1,000 donation from local realtors Kelly Kay, left, and Kirsten Rae, right, to benefit children. Kay and Rae made the donation from T-shirt sales, which were part of a marketing campaign for their business partnership Kay Rae Real Estate. This was the second donation made from the sale of the T-shirts by the team to food banks, totalling \$2,000. Submitted by Kirsten Rae

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Larry O'Connor connects with his culture



An octopus bag, like those Larry O'Connor said were made in the late 19th/early 20th century, took him three months to make. "Traditionally, these were made by wives for their husbands and used to carry flint, tobacco, smoking pipes, tinder, medicines and other small items. More contemporarily, these bags are used by men and women in dances as regalia," he said. /Submitted

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

After becoming introduced to Indigenous beadwork, the first piece that Larry O'Connor beaded himself was a poppy, which he gave to his next door neighbour, a Legion member. "They say you should always give away your first piece," said O'Connor. "[Since then] I've made one for everybody in my family."

And so began a deep interest in creating art and regalia through beading that has led to O'Connor being part of several beading groups on Facebook, learning more about his own culture and history and being able to share with others through social media and even in classes on stitching and technique he has taught.

"I haven't been beading for that long," said O'Connor, who started in October 2019. "But with COVID, it filled a niche. The downside is we don't get to go see people in person but it gave me time to focus on a craft that is part of my culture that I probably wouldn't have had spent the time with otherwise."

O'Connor, whose mom was Métis and whose dad is Métis-Odawa, first went to a class about beadwork that the Toronto Métis Council had put together. Some of the beadwork itself, he said, goes back a thousand years, and was originally created with shells which connected the work to shared DNA between humans and Mother Earth.

"I did the one class, and then I was at another Métis gathering, and did another flower, and I thought, well, I can do this," he said. "The next thing I did was my vest. Once you've learned to stitch, it's just a matter of finding a pattern or coming up with an idea. It's been rewarding."

For O'Connor, he said the interest for him was in the culture.

"Within our culture, there's a language, there's the connection to the land, but a very tactile way of being involved with our culture is actually doing the beadwork and the crafting that our relations did one hundred, two hundred years ago," he said. "I think, something drew me to the element of creating something with my hands that I could share in different ways. It gives me something that I can show and talk about as well."

While O'Connor was growing up in Oshawa, his family did not talk about being Indigenous. His great-grandmother went to residential school – a problematic school system funded by the Canadian government and run by churches that removed Indigenous children from their families with the purpose of assimilating them into settler culture that resulted in abuse and death of many children as well as trauma for survivors. She subsequently raised her family as French-Canadians.

"My dad had no exposure to his grandmother and his moth-

“Within our culture, there’s a language, there’s the connection to the land, but a very tactile way of being involved with our culture is actually doing the beadwork and the crafting that our relations did one hundred, two hundred years ago.”

— LARRY O'CONNOR

er died when he was 12, so there was no way for him to really know that he was Indigenous," said O'Connor. "It wasn't until the early 90s, around 2000, probably when he retired, that he started to investigate his culture. He found that his grandfather was Métis. It wasn't until we looked even further and he found that his grandmother was born on Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island."

O'Connor's mom's side also denied their Indigenuity.

"In my retirement, I really embraced my Indigenous heritage and tried to reclaim who I am and who my family is, my family, they're getting educated just as I am, we share that as we grow," said O'Connor. "In many ways, it's our little piece of being on the receiving end of Truth and Reconciliation. If it wasn't the fact that our great-grandmother went through the residential school system, and the colonial system that we grew up in, we probably would have known more about our past. Because they grew up in Northern Ontario, the shame of being Indigenous it was like a heavy wet Hudson Bay blanket covering them, that, don't talk about being Indigenous, don't tell anyone, because the Indian agents will find you and you'll be off to residential schools, too."

For O'Connor it has been important to speak out against falsehoods and myths that get perpetuated through racism, which he can do through education on his radio show and now in sharing history and meaning through beadwork.

"For me to have a chance to go out and share my culture and dispel myths, I think that's really important," he said. "I think the history I learned in school and even the, when you're traveling across the country and you look at some of

see SHARING page 11

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Sharing stories and dispelling myths

from page 10

these historic plaques, a lot of them are full of myths and errors. I mean, the settlers, the colonialists, they came over here and said there were savages here. We had people, culture, and we were here for ten thousand years before they arrived. We were here. We weren't discovered. They just happened to run into us when they came to our homelands."

To this end, some of O'Connor's work has honoured missing and murdered Indigenous women, and, since this interview, the 215 children found buried in a mass grave at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops.

His favourite work so far has been a beaded octopus, or "devil fish" bag, which he said is named for its eight "dangling tabs."

"This style of bag has been found among the Métis, Cree and Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island," he wrote on social media. "The Tlingit people have artfully been making these bags since the mid-1800s. Traditionally, these were made by wives for their husbands and used to carry flint, tobacco, smoking pipes, tinder, medicines and other small items. More contemporarily, these bags are used by men and women in dances as regalia."

"It was a project I felt I needed to do, it's part of Indigenous culture that is shared with First Nation and Métis," O'Connor told the *Times*. "It's got elements of both sides of that piece of my heritage. I haven't put the medicines in the legs yet but I am going to have to do that. Before I take it out I will. Creating the octopus bag is one thing but it now becomes a talking piece as well, where I can talk about the culture, the history behind things, and introduce them to the medicines, that normally you don't have that opportunity to do."

While semi-retired, O'Connor puts much care into his work on Canoe FM as an Indigenous radio host, and helped to organize COVID-19 vaccination clinics for Indigenous people in Haliburton. Now his downtime, when he has it, is spent at the table at his Hunter Creek home working on projects.

"It's a great way to sit down and have conversation," he said. "People do that with quilting, and playing cards. Sometimes it involves crafts, sometimes it's just a social activity. When you do it virtually with other people, you have that opportunity to learn about other cultures right across Turtle Island."

Additionally, he can share his work – on vests, on drums – with friends and family; from his mom and dad down, he said there are 74 relatives.

"If I bead for the rest of my life, I should be able to get something to everyone," he said, laughing. "There's a lot of

beading to be done."

O'Connor is making time for it.

"We never were exposed to any cultural activities being Indigenous here in Canada - I think, now, we're ... Canada's changing," he said. "Louis Riel was a cousin of mine. He said, in 100 years, the Indigenous will rise up, and it will be the artists that will lead the way. Well, I don't know that I'm leading the way, but I'm certainly sharing what I'm learning ... I think it's important that we share the stories."

"My story could very well have ended with the genocide of my culture if somebody didn't speak up and start talking about it," he said. "This is my way of saying that this is who I am, this is part of my Indigenous culture, and I'm proud of it."

In this photo of Larry with his mom and dad, the three proudly wear Larry's work in the form of vests and a beaded poppy – the latter being one of his first beading projects.
/Submitted photo



Larry posted this photo of his beading supplies to social media. During the pandemic he has become more interested in beading and is now a prolific craftsman. /Submitted



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Bridge construction in downtown Minden

The second phase of the rehabilitation of the Sunnybrook bridge in Minden's downtown is underway, with the project expected to be completed June 25. In the meantime, the bridge is often reduced to one lane, with Water Street closed from Bobcaygeon Road to the post office. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

Local municipalities and library honoured for exemplary environmental programming

by **MIKE BAKER**
Times Staff

Haliburton County's four lower-tier municipalities have been recognized for their environmental outreach and programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dysart et al, Algonquin Highlands, Minden Hills and Highlands East were acknowledged at the 2021 Promotion and Education Awards, held by the Municipal Waste Association on June 2.

The quartet, along with the County of Haliburton and the Haliburton County Public Library, took home silver in the Social Media & Online Strategy award for their fall 2020 Waste Reduction Week in Canada social media campaign.

"The partnership between four small municipalities, the county and the library, helped effectively deliver consistent and clear waste diversion messaging to residents," one of the award's judges commented.

From Oct. 19 to 25 last year, the local coalition teamed up to provide information on how to reduce the amount of garbage each of us creates. The social media accounts of all of the municipalities and the library offered tips on waste reduction and provided recommendations for themed books that would help individuals improve their environmental footprint.

Together, the group also put together a schedule of online events that local residents could attend virtually, including a collection of 'Maker Break' activities, showcasing how people can reuse old materials to create items such as a fabric mache bowl, egg geodes and recycled candles.

Dysart left the event with a second commendation – the Gold Print Tool Award for its children's activity book 'Let's Protect the Environment Together', which was made available online and for pickup last fall.

"By targeting a specific audience, this activity book was fun and creative, and demonstrated that small municipalities can implement effective promotion and creation," one of the judges remarked.

The Municipal Waste Association is an incorporated not-for-profit organization formed in 1987 by Ontario municipal waste management professionals to facilitate the sharing of municipal waste reduction and recycling information and experience. The organization's annual promotion and education awards recognize outstanding achievements by Ontario municipalities for the use of effective waste minimization and diversion communication efforts.

“The partnership between four small municipalities, the county and the library, helped effectively deliver consistent and clear waste diversion messaging to residents.



NOTICE – SPECIAL MEETING of COUNCIL

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a Special Meeting of Council on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. conducted electronically via web conference.

The purpose of the Special Meeting will be for Council to discuss updates to the Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Special Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated this 9th day of June, 2021.

Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
T: 705-489-2379 Ext. 333
E: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca

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Youth vaccine clinics to be held June 23, June 26

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually on June 2 with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

The health unit recommends youth aged 12 to 17 years of age get the COVID-19 vaccine, and has sent a message through the Trillium Lakelands District School board to parents, guardians and students regarding upcoming youth vaccination clinics.

"Vaccinating youth protects them from being infected with COVID-19, getting sick from COVID-19 [and] spreading COVID-19 to others," reads the letter.

Youth-only immunization clinics will take place at mass immunization clinics throughout the region. A clinic will be held at the Campbellford Curling Club on June 21, at the Cobourg Community Centre on June 14, 20 and 27, at the Fenelon Falls Community Centre on June 25, at the Lindsay Exhibition on June 15, 17, 19 and 22 and at Minden's S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on June 26.

Visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-youth> to learn more or call 1-833-943-3900 to book an appointment.

Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team

is hosting a vaccination clinic for students aged 12 to 17 on June 23 at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre, according to a June 1 press release from the HHFHT.

"As you are aware, vaccination has proven to be an effective measure in the control of COVID-19," reads the release, signed by Dr. Tina Stephenson. "The toll of school closures is huge and so the safe reopening of schools is key to improvements in both the mental, physical and academic well-being of your youth."

The clinic will be held from 3 to 7 p.m., with later hours to "help accommodate transportation challenges," according to the release. Registration and appointment booking must be made in order to have accurate quantity of vaccine delivered – the vaccine available is made by Pfizer, which is the vaccine that has so far been approved for those 12 and up, and 150 doses are available. By June 21, call 705-457-1212 and select option 5 or 6 to set up an appointment.

The health unit told reporters there are 4,320 youth-only appointments available through clinics in all three counties. Youth aged 12 to 17 are also able to book appointments through pharmacies and their primary health care providers.

The school health team of the health unit can be reached at 1-866-888-4577, extension 1508.

Booking accelerated second shot appointments

As of Monday, June 7, individuals turning 70 and older in 2021, as well as those who received their first dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines on or before April 18 will be able to book an earlier appointment for their second dose of vaccine at a mass immunization clinic, including those in Haliburton County.

To book a first or second dose vaccine appointment, subject to availability, visit www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine or call 1-888-999-6488.

"As its vaccine supply increases, the HKPRD health unit is providing more vaccination booking appointments in coming weeks across its region, including Haliburton County," said Bill Eekhof, spokesperson for the health unit. "If individuals cannot immediately book a local appointment, they should check back as the health unit will be adding more clinic slots on the provincial booking system."

Vaccine appointments for second doses can also be booked through pharmacies and primary care providers taking part in the vaccine roll-out.

Most HKPR COVID-19 cases since April identified as variants of concern

Since April 1, 73.6 per cent of new cases across the HKPR region have been identified as variants of concern. As of June 2, 730 cases in the region had screened positive as a variant of concern, with 372 of those cases in City

of Kawartha Lakes, 325 in Northumberland County and 33 in Haliburton County. "For these mutations, we still don't have confirmation of which variants of concern some of those lab values were, but the vast majority has still remained to be the B117 variant, which is the variant identified in the U.K.," said Bocking.

HKPR residents 65 per cent vaccinated

As of May 31, 82,934 doses of vaccine had been administered throughout the HKPR region, with 104,784 residents having received their first dose – some in other regions – and 11,108 residents having received both their first and second dose of vaccine. In terms of the proportion of population who have received the vaccine, 61.1 per cent of the HKPRD population 12 and older has received their first dose, 64.6 per cent of the population that is 18 and older has received their first dose, and 81.7 per cent of the population that is 60 and older has received their first dose. Bocking said that as of May 31, the region's population is 64.6 per cent vaccinated, which she said is "pretty close," with the 65 per cent target set for the end of May by the province, noting that goal had been reached in the days between the end of May and the date of the press conference.

"That's quite exciting and quite a huge achievement for residents in our region and all of the healthcare partners and community organizations that have been participating and supporting this vaccine rollout," said Bocking.

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Answers on page 13

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Schools to remain closed until September

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

School's not out for summer, but it won't be in-person again for the majority of elementary and high school students throughout the province until a new school year in September.

"To best protect Ontario families from the fast growing B.1.617.2 variant, and to allow for higher rates of vaccination of students, staff, and families, the Ontario government has made the difficult decision to continue with remote learning for all elementary and secondary students across the province for the remainder of this school year," reads a June 2 press release from the provincial government. "This will allow the province to continue its focus on accelerating COVID-19 vaccinations to support a safer summer and return to in-person learning in September for the 2021-22 school year."

Premier Doug Ford made the announcement June 2 after considering advice from the province's science table, which said schools could be safely opened in some regions, and almost a week after seeking guidance through questions posed in a letter to medical experts, school officials and education unions.

"I know this is difficult, very difficult, news," said Ford. "It was a hard choice to make, but I will not, I repeat, I will not, take unnecessary risks with our children right now. The fact is, we're fighting a third wave driven by variants and unlike the original strains, we know that some of the variants we're fighting right now are more dangerous for children. It can make younger people very, very sick. And we also know that until we get more students and teachers vaccinated, outdoor activities are safest right now."

The government expects to "reach all youth aged 12 and over who want a vaccine with a first dose before the end of June and with a second dose by the end of August 2021."

Ford said the decision to not open in-person learning in schools in June would allow kids "to safely enjoy camps and outdoor activities this summer," making a safe return to school in September.

According to modelling presented by the province's science advisory table, an increase of six to 11 per cent could be seen in the number of new daily COVID-19 cases if schools reopened.

"It is unknown how many of these would be the new, more dangerous B.1.617.2 variant first identified in India, which has entered the province through Canada's borders," said the province's press release.

During this third lockdown, the number of daily cases has dropped from more than 4,800 cases in mid-April to 699 cases last week when the announcement was made.

Almost 1.5 million elementary and secondary students in Ontario have been learning at home since mid-April, when the province went into a third lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some students – about 500,000 – have been learning at home by choice since the beginning of the school year. Students enrolled in what the board describe as 'special education' programs have had the option to attend school in-person continuously.

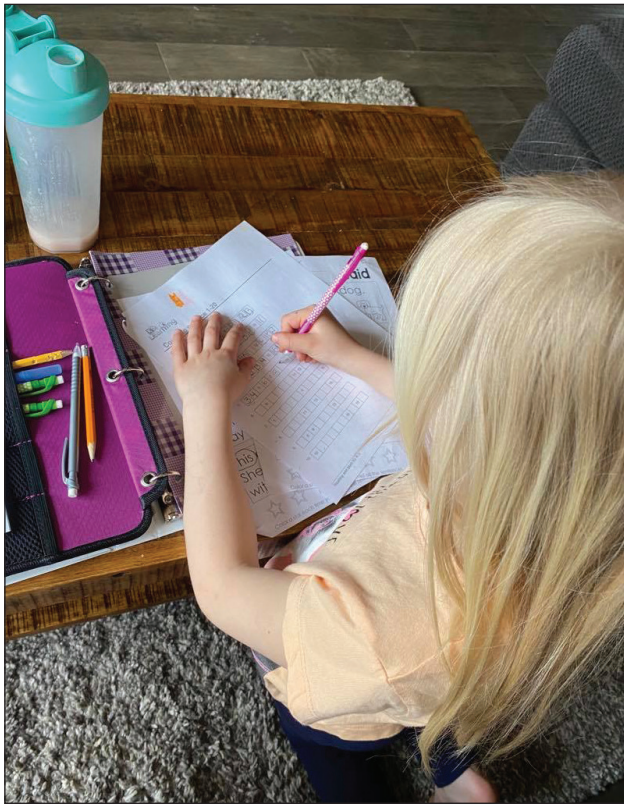
According to spokesperson Sinead Fegan, Trillium Lakelands District School Board found out about the plan for schools to remain generally closed at the same time as others in the province.

"Shortly before the announcement, several provincial news outlets suggested that the decision would be for students to remain in online learning," said Fegan. "However, school boards did not receive the official announcement until the premier's press conference."

According to Fegan, "Trillium Lakelands District School Board schools will continue to provide the best learning experience possible while students engage in online learning from home for the remainder of the school year."

Reaction from parents across the province, who were long-awaiting an announcement about the remaining month of school, was mixed. While some spoke out saying they were not engaged in online learning and were starting an early summer after a difficult year, others were disappointed to not have the in-person closure their students wanted with teachers and friends. Some parents said it made sense to not return for a few weeks of school – especially if it might result in increased COVID-19 cases – after most grades had been in-purged, while others struggled with childcare or working from home and supporting students who were learning at home.

Cindy-Jo Nesbitt's kids are in high school. Walker is in Grade 10 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, and



Last week's announcement that schools will not open for in-person learning has some parents frustrated and some parents in agreement. Students who opted for in-person learning have been home from school since April. Above, Brynnley Hughes studies at home in Minden. /Submitted

Sterling is in Grade 12 at Ontario Hockey Academy.

"I was disappointed to hear the students were not returning," she said. "The statement of getting all teachers vaccinated seemed to be redundant as I feel most adults have their first shot of a vaccine already. Frustrated that people can go golfing and socialize, but our kids don't have the same opportunity to reconnect with peers."

Walker has been online for 90 per cent of the school year, said Nesbitt. He started the year learning from home, but returned to in-person learning for socialization, and then schools closed again.

"The school year has been filled with frustrations, arguments, and a constant battle for Wi-Fi," said Nesbitt.

As Nesbitt's kids are older, nothing changes in their home with the announcement, she said. They're "just trying to push through for the next couple weeks at home."

"The pandemic has pushed us all to our limits," she said. "I'm proud of the parents/guardians who have been by their children through this all. The students need a large round of applause for being who they are. Teachers need high fives for being present for our kids' education. But in the end, we all just want to go back to normal – whatever 'normal' may look like now."

Lindsay Hughes' kids are in Grade 1 and Grade 4.

"It's been a bit hectic," she said of the school year. "The kids having to wear masks all day, and not being able to [actually] socialize with friends."

Her kids began school at home until after Thanksgiving when they returned to in-person after first choosing school at home, and have been back to online learning since April.

"We have been doing online – it's been a bit of a struggle," she said. "We do not go on every day. I've just decided it isn't worth the frustration for them and myself. It's hard to sit online all day being ages six and nine, so I can't blame them."

Hughes said she is happy they will be staying home for the remainder of the year.

"If the cases are going to rise for them to just be back for three weeks, I don't find it worth it," she said. "I would much rather them have a good summer and be able to have friends around more. If they did go back, and cases were to rise who knows what it would look like for September."

Amanda Clement's son is in senior kindergarten. The school year for them, she said, has been "unpredictable," with two provincial lockdowns throughout the school year resulting in students "bouncing from in-school to online."

Since April, they have been doing some online learning, alongside workbooks they have at home.

"I feel it should have been a regional approach to go back to in-class," she said. "Our community has had low, if not

zero cases for a while now. I always felt safe for my son to be in-person learning. The majority of his class time was spent outdoors. He is missing class structure, social settings with peers and is struggling to stay focussed with the online type learning."

While Clement said it doesn't affect or change her life much, her son is disappointed.

"He was hoping for in-class learning," she said. "He enjoys school, he benefits from the structure of the class setting and he misses seeing other children other than his two-year-old brother."

Despite the disappointment in the announcement, Clement said they won't cut the school year short for an early summer.

"We will continue to do what we can," she said.

Fegan said, "It is important to note that support is available to students who may need assistance from staff, including from our Student Services Attendance Counsellors. We ask that parents/guardians contact the classroom teacher or the school to request assistance if needed."

During last week's announcement, Ford also suggested schools hold outdoor graduation events for all students before the end of June.

"Students have worked incredibly hard throughout the pandemic, with important milestones like graduation ceremonies impacted," reads the government's press release. "Ontario students deserve this positive conclusion to their academic journey, safely. The government will allow school boards to invite graduating students in elementary schools, by class, and secondary schools, by homeroom/quadrimester class, to return to school in June for a short, outdoor celebration, where physical distancing is possible."

TLDSB graduation plans have been in place at schools since April 30. TLDSB graduations will remain virtual this year, according to Fegan.

"Graduations take a lot of time and careful planning to put in place," she said. "TLDSB administrators have had school graduation plans in place for several weeks."

The Ontario Principals' Council responded quickly to the announcement, making a statement within hours of Ford's press conference, noting that school staff had already made plans in May and June that follow public health guidelines to celebrate graduates, including through 'drive-thrus,' virtually recorded sessions or other events that don't require large gatherings.

"Regardless of the format, considerable time and care has been put into planning this milestone," reads the statement. "Asking schools to change direction and organize an outdoor event, while social distancing restrictions are still in place, is impractical and unrealistic. It would also lead to additional costs – to cancel and plan for a new event – that schools do not have the budget to accommodate at this time."

"Since March 2020, schools, boards and educators have been asked to 'pivot' numerous times, reverting from in-person, to virtual, to hybrid learning models. The education system has been turned on its head, and the learning environment has undergone numerous changes and revisions. And in every case, educators have responded as the professionals they are, doing what was necessary to comply with medical advice, emergency measures, lockdowns, stay-at-home orders and ongoing changes in government policy. Now we are being asked to revert and pivot again, to cancel graduation plans already in place and organize outdoor events amid social distancing restrictions. This is simply not possible or practical. It is unrealistic and disrespectful to Ontario educators to expect such a considerable shift in planning at this point in the school year."

Since Ford's announcement, the Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board have confirmed there will not be outdoor functions this year, with ceremonies occurring virtually as planned.

TLDSB said more information about the end of the school year and plans for next year will be available to parents toward the end of the school year.

"There will be opportunities for students to drop off devices and collect belongings," said Fegan. "This will be a chance for parents/guardians to take photos of their graduate, pick up diplomas, and possibly speak with friends and say goodbye to staff."

"Planning for summer learning for some students is underway, as well as preparations for the new school year. We know this has been a challenging year for everyone – our staff, our students, and our families. We are looking forward to a new school year when we can teach and learn in our buildings." For more information or TLDSB updates visit <https://www.tldsb.ca/covid19/>.

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Employment date: June 28- Aug 20, 2021

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\$1 (93
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The Times

Monday, May 29, 2000 Number 1942

MAPLE LAKE
\$74,900
2 bedroom, chalet style cottage/home, fully
winterized, year round road, level lot, sand
beach, 3 lake chain. Good Value.
Doug Johnson
Broker
Countrywide
Haliburton Realty Ltd.
Bus. 286-2882 Res. 489-1234

Town water supply is OK

Ontario Clean Water Agency, the company that manages the Minden Water Treatment Plant, sent a notice to the municipality reassuring council that all of the 200-plus water systems it manages across the province have tested clean in the most recent tests.

The notice was prompted by the contamination of the water system in Walkerton, resulting in at least five deaths and dozens of victims being hospitalized.

OCWA is the largest operator of water and waste water systems in Ontario. Chief Executive Officer Paul Scott said in the letter to council that the first line of defense against the potential contamination of any water treatment system is sound design of the system itself. "In the case of OCWA operated facilities, this is then backed up by strict operational controls that include disinfection, monitoring of disinfection levels and sampling programs that meet or exceed the Ontario Drinking Water Objectives and

(more on page 4)



WORKING TOGETHER: The Trails and Tours Network kiosk construction is a co-operative effort. Local contractor Peter Jennings, second from right, helps HHSS students assemble rafters for one of three kiosks that will soon be placed at key locations in the county.

Information kiosks will help travellers find county attractions

Information kiosks promoting attractions and services in Haliburton County will soon be seen in key locations. The "Gateway Kiosks" are a millennium project of the Trails and Tours Network.

The primary function of the kiosks will be to convey information specifically oriented to wayfinding via seasonally appropriate maps and to provide the Trails and Tour users with a comprehensive overview of the Haliburton County Trails and Tours network.

The organizers of the project have taken a unique approach. For example, each kiosk will be oriented to compass points to provide instant recognition of directions.

The main frames will be post and beam construction. Other components of the kiosks are being built as a joint effort, including local contractors, who donated their time and expertise, and students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, who provided labour for various sections. The prefabrication is being done at the high school.

The Network will be asking the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce for its co-operation by providing signs that will direct the motoring public to the kiosks.

The network is taking a unique approach to how the information is con-

veyed. Pictographs will be used on the kiosks. Each of the four-foot by six-foot pictograph panels will represent some of the trail-specific activities, such as snowmobiling, biking, canoeing, horseback riding and others. The pictographs will be combined with trail-specific sponsor information. Revenue generated by this sponsorship will help with the network's objective of making the kiosks self sustaining. It will also promote available products for trail users.

One of the panels on each of the kiosks will be dedicated to trails-specific artwork, with the goal of encouraging interest in the area's natural environment.

The kiosks will provide the opportunity for Chamber of Commerce or Trails and Tours representatives to be in attendance at the sites at key times such as long weekends through the spring, summer and fall seasons. They will offer marketing, communication and information-providing outlets at key gateway points in the county.

Three sites will be set up this year, with the possibility of more sites in the future. The three sites favoured for this year are Lutterworth Township near the Victoria County boundary, Carnarvon, near the intersection of Highways 35 and 118 and Kinmount, near the old Ministry of Transportation facility on County Road 121.



TEMPORARY MOVE: Detective Sergeant Kelly Anderson of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Crime Unit loads computer equipment into a truck in preparation for a temporary move to Coboconk. The unit's paper records are being relocated as well, to ensure the mould that has forced a temporary move from the Minden building will not affect those documents. Anderson, who heads the Crime Unit, said the four-person team remains positive, hoping to move back to Minden soon. Part of the reason for the move is because of the uncertainty surrounding the repairs to the office. The Crime Unit's office was the area most affected by the mould, which caused air quality concerns.

**Minden Home Hardware
Garden Centre Now Open**

MINDEN HOME HARDWARE

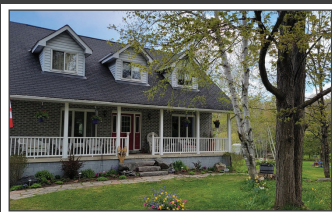
705-286-1351

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Dan & Emily Moulton



**Here's
How.**

building centre



Adele Barry
705-457-0306

Grass Lake \$1,199,900

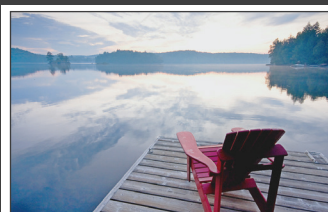
- 4 Bedroom 3.5 Bathroom
- 5 Chain Lake system
- Lots of privacy on 1.8 acres
- 2 min from Haliburton



Dagmar Boettcher**
457-5968

Kushog Lake \$810,000

- 100ft frontage, 3 bed & 1 bath, 1042 s.f.
- Neat & clean open concept, lots of windows
- Shallow entry in a protected bay
- Dock/wharf, renovated boathouse facing SE



Andy Campbell
854-0292

Looking For

- Entrepreneurs
- Investors
- Waterfront & Lots



Gloria Carnochan* & Breen Budel*
754-1932

Thinking about selling?

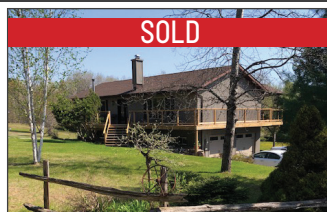
- Wondering what your property is worth?
- Let's chat about the 40.1% increase in value!



Mark Denny*
457-0473

Haliburton Home \$759,900

- Apprx 172 Ft Rd Frntg, 0.58 Acres, 2428 Sq Ft
- 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath, Open Concept, Att'd Garage
- Partially Finished Bsmt, Private Veranda
- Boat Slip, 2 Boat Launches, Private Park



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Delightful Country Home \$629,000

- 2100 sq feet of living space
- 3 bedrooms/ 2 baths
- Level, landscaped, private lot
- QE Park at your doorstep



Lindsay Elder*
457-5878

Wilberforce \$57,000

- Do you have building plans in the future?
- This well treed lot is within walking distance of all amenities



Melanie Hevesi**
854-1000

Eagle Lake Area \$125,000

- 1.5 acre building lot, municipal rd
- Close to skiing, boating, golf & trails
- Hydro at road



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Haliburton Home \$374,900

- Ideal starter home or for a family
- Open concept with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath
- Amazing downtown Haliburton location
- Stunning views over Head Lake



Susanne James* & Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Mink Rd.

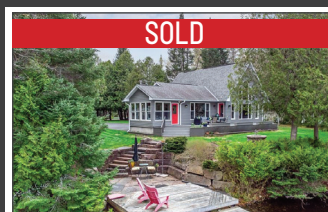
- Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy
- Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake
- Year-round Municipal Road access
- Minutes to Haliburton Village



David Lee*
286-2138 x 227

Minden Home \$199,000

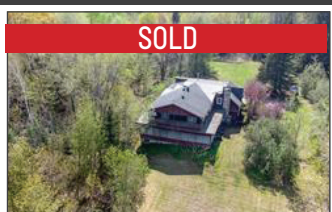
- 2 bedroom home close to town.
- New Fap furnace. roof resingled 3 yrs ago.
- Easy access needs some TLC.



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Kashagawigamog Lake

- NW exposure & beautiful sunsets
- Secluded property on 5-lake chain
- 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 2483 sf
- Sand beach



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Fortescue Lake \$949,000

- 3970 sf, 6 bdrms, 2 baths
- Restored log room w/stone FP
- 33 wooded acres, 543ft waterfront
- Usable barn for animals or storage



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Wilberforce Home \$499,000

- 936 sf, 2 bdrm, 1 bath bungalow
- Open concept kit/LR/DR
- Finished bsmt, rec room
- 9 acres backs onto Crown Land



Kelly Kay*
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Haliburton Home \$219,000

- Perfect starter, retirement or investment opportunity.
- Walk to town, park and all amenities
- Haliburton has to offer!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Gooderham \$699,900

- Beautiful 3 bedroom home with attached garage.
- Separate garage, on 100 acres adjoining crown land.



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Make A Sharp Move & List With Me

- Waterfront up 70.5%*
- Residential up 45.7%*
- *(The Lakelands, Median Price 4/2020-4/2021)



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Wilberforce \$799,000

- 3 bdrm, 2 bath country home
- Extensively renovated
- 1.39 acres, swimming pond, fountains
- Stream, 4 waterfalls, privacy



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Ingoldsby Area Home \$629,000

- 3 bdrms/2 baths
- Full walk-out Basement, 5.5 acres
- 20'x40' insulated/wired garage w/workshop
- Vegetable Gardens/Chicken Coop/Trails



Lindsay Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 223

Mountain Lake \$649,000

- 3 bedroom partially winterized cottage
- Clean child friendly waterfront
- Fabulous western exposure



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

Haliburton Area \$625,000

- 1800+ sf home, main flr living
- 3 bdrms, 3 baths, sunroom
- Dbl attached garage
- Geothermal heating w/AC, back-up generator



Kirby Keks*
705-457-2128 x138

Close to Minden

- 8.82 acres 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath
- Walkout basement



Jim Allder*
705-935-1112

Little Hawk Lk Cottage \$650,000

- 2 bedroom fully furnished cottage
- Additional bunkie sleeps 2
- Great views on 194' waterfront
- Water access only.

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